

Dedicated to the
education of orphans
in AFRICA

SPRING 2024

Orphans Africa News

Jaqueline's STORY

My name is Jacqueline Kolina, and this is my story. In 2015, I completed my secondary education at Orphans Africa's Mwaji Secondary School. My educational journey failed for me when my mother fell seriously ill with cancer. Her illness was heartbreaking, and I had to leave my position at the school to be her caregiver. I knew I had to be there for her and my family during this time. After my mother passed from cancer, I found myself in deep grief and in unexplainable pain. I was unable to return to school. I eventually heard about Orphans Africa who help children like me get an education. I found the courage to put in an application and was accepted. I was able to resume my education. I am proud to say I received outstanding marks at the Mwaji Secondary School. I received incredible support from Orphans

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Africa. I went on to college to receive a Bachelor of Science in Education. I decided to combine my passion for science with my dedication to education. I want to inspire the next generation of orphans.

This would not have been possible without the support of Orphans Africa who have tirelessly stood by me on my education journey. My journey is marked by my mother's passing and the unexplainable hardship that followed. I want to pay it forward to

help other children out there. I want to be there for those who are experiencing adversity and hardship in life. My goal is to show them that with determination and support from OA, they too can overcome adversity.

I have nothing material to offer to Orphans Africa except the life-changing opportunities they have provided me. May God bless them for their service and dedication to helping young minds like mine. Their unending commitment to education has not only changed my life but also the lives of countless other children.

I will continue my academic journey and work toward my dream. I hope to make a positive impact on the lives of other children as Orphans Africa has done for me. 🐦



Jaqueline Kolina is now a teacher at the Mwaji Secondary School, where she used to be a student. These photos are of a biology class where she is teaching the system of classification. OA is proud of Jacqueline, her determination, and her desire to pay it forward.



VISION: Orphans Africa envisions a world without poverty in which all persons have the freedom and opportunities to pursue happiness and maximize their potential.

MISSION: Orphans Africa is dedicated to the education of orphans in Africa.

VALUES: At Orphans Africa, we live by five Core Values:

Accountability
Integrity
Collaboration
Sustainability
Empowerment

These Core Values drive our short and long term goals and are the foundation of our mission. OA believes in development, not aid, as development at the grassroots level empowers people to rise to their own giftedness and break the cycle of poverty. Education frees people from bondage; ignorance is disabling. It is every person's right to be self-sufficient and determine their own destiny.

OA embraces diversity and supports people of all ages, ethnicities, nationalities, religions, genders, sexual orientations, or socioeconomic statuses.

Orphans Africa News is a tri-yearly newsletter published by OA.

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Carl Gann, Volunteer President
Michele Torrey, Volunteer Editorial Director

Please direct questions, comments, address updates, and requests to:

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<https://orphansafrica.org>

Dear Friend,

So much has happened since our last newsletter. We held our benefit luncheon, we've started a new fundraising campaign to raise money for a girls' dorm at our Voc-Tech college, we've had smaller community fundraisers, and more. And it seems every day someone is reaching out to say, "How can I help?"

2023 was a year all about transitions. We added new members to the Board. We are now fully functioning as an *all-volunteer* organization. Because of these positive changes, *98.6% of all funds received went to Africa toward project development*. That's hard to do! Imagine trying to run a business where you give away 98.6% of all income! But, through a generous and hard-working group of dedicated people, we're doing it.

This newsletter is chock full of updates. Enjoy, learn, cry a little, and then sit back, assured that you are a vital part of the solution.

In Love,
Carl Gann
Orphans Africa Volunteer
President



Orphans Africa Receives the GuideStar Seal

Once again, Orphans Africa has satisfied the requirements to renew its valued partnership with GuideStar Exchange. Receiving the GuideStar seal requires a proven commitment to transparency, including the disclosure of critical financial and government documentation. Donors or grantors wishing to see this documentation or who wish to learn more about key staff, programs, and impact, can view the Orphans Africa profile at www.guidestar.org.

Platinum
Transparency
2023

Candid.



2024 OA BENEFIT RAISES OVER \$85,000



The Chinook ballroom in Fife, WA, was perfect! The best part? The venue was donated by the Puyallup Indian Tribe!



All the food was delicious—salmon, beef stroganoff, chicken, salads galore—plus the desserts were fabulous!



We had over 100 guests with many newcomers, all eager to hear about and help the orphans in Tanzania.



At the African Marketplace, everyone got to pick a handmade item from Tanzania to take home.

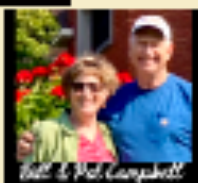


Board Directors, Vickie and Wayne Lackman, presented on their recent trip to Tanzania and the difficulties faced by orphaned children and teens.



Seven lucky winners walked away with fantastic door prizes donated by individuals and area businesses.

THANK YOU to our SPONSORS!



PLAN NOW to JOIN US for the 2025 Benefit!

OA President, Carl Gann, and his wife and Co-Founder, Michele Torrey, will be back from Tanzania, fresh with stories from the field. The venue will be the same, donated once again by the Puyallup Indian Tribe.

Set your calendars for Saturday, 2/22/25, from 12-2pm!

The Starting Line

Finding Solutions



Working in Tanzania these last sixteen years has taught me a lot about its geography, people, culture, language, customs, religion, politics, healthcare, and poverty. Anyone who has visited our school locations in rural Tanzania gets a picture of what life is like for those who are born, live and die in poverty. It is sobering and brings one to ask, "Why does it have to be this way? What causes this?"

Akello Barke, at Jean Lorougnon Guede University, writes in the International Journal of Science and Society (2023), "Despite Africa's immense potential and the strides made in some regions, poverty continues to exert a

significant grip on the lives of millions. Rooted in historical legacies, compounded by political instability, and exacerbated by limited access to education and healthcare, poverty persists as a formidable adversary."

Despite the harsh reality of overwhelming poverty, it doesn't have to remain this way. Because

Uzia looked thin and I wondered how she was faring. . .

by Carl Gann
OA Volunteer President

once we know the adversaries, action can be taken. Barke also writes, "Education stands out as a potent catalyst for poverty reduction. Investment in quality education not only equips individuals with skills and knowledge but also empowers them to break the cycle of poverty. Education initiatives should be accessible, inclusive, and tailored to local needs."

This is exactly the mission of Orphans Africa (OA), to educate the orphans in Africa. Of all demographic levels, orphan children remain at the very bottom.

I am reminded of an interview I conducted with Uzia, one of our young female students at our Mwaji Secondary School. Uzia looked thin and I wondered how





Three photos to left: Students at the Marilyn Primary School.

she was faring given that we weren't able to implement our school meal program yet.

"Have you had anything to eat today?" I asked her.

"No, I have not had anything to eat today," she replied.

"What did you have to eat yesterday?"

"I had half a banana."

"What about the day before yesterday?"

"I had a *mandazi*." (A *mandazi* is a chunk of fried bread, about the size of your fist.)

"And three days ago?"

She hesitated, thinking. "A banana."

That's when I stopped, stunned, finally asking her, "How can you go to school when you are so hungry?"

She replied, "I can be hungry at home, or be hungry at school. I choose to be at school. I want an education."

Like author Barke, and like wise Uzia, I believe that to stop the cycle of poverty, *education is key*. We at OA can attest to the success of education in helping people rise out of poverty. We have educated thousands of children over the years and see the results. Although research on poverty in Africa demonstrates that the causes of

poverty are multifaceted, *the starting line for change is the education of a country's people*. Being able to read, write, calculate, research, ask questions, solve problems, access resources, participate in civics, and more, all add to the likelihood of successfully rising from poverty. Education gives people power over their lives, the ability to make decisions that will bring stability to themselves, their families, and their communities, in a way that uplifts an entire nation.

The donors, volunteers, and supporters of Orphans Africa make this ongoing transformation possible. Thousands of kids count on us to maintain our programs year-round; this includes food programs. It is a big job, and like African poverty, can be overwhelming. Thank you for being a part of the solution and giving where it counts: to the education of orphan children. ♡



Top Photo: Students at our Mbozi Nursery School with Vickie Lackman, OA Volunteer Vice-President. Photos 2-4 (top to bottom): (all at Mwaji Secondary School) Crops cultivated on campus; Boys dancing; Girls dancing.

Second Science Lab for Our High Schoolers

Earlier this year, OA was both excited and honored to receive a \$5,000 grant from the DanPaul Foundation. The purpose for the grant was to help finish building a second science laboratory at the Mwaji Secondary School in Bujela, TZ.

With over 100 students in four grades, and with classes in chemistry, biology, and physics, OA began construction on a second laboratory some time ago. However, work stalled due to lack of funding. The new grant, however, kickstarted construction once again. Then, because of the generous donations received at the February Benefit, the entire lab has now been funded and we anticipate completion within the next two months. 🐦



Photos (clockwise from upper L): 1-The incomplete science lab alongside the first lab; 2-Students conducting experiments; 3-Finishing touches under the eaves; 4-Inside construction of the new lab, with built-in lab tables, butane piping, and sinks.



Top Row (L to R): Riley, Bradley, Emily, Samantha, Andrea; **Bottom Row (L to R):** Ella, Jieyu, Tian, Ashley, Vivian; **Not Pictured:** Taylor, Nicole, Ian, Sophia, Alicia, Margot, & Kendra

From Palo Alto to Tanzania, with

LOVE

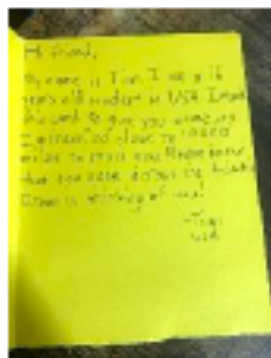
by Michele Torrey
OA Volunteer Secretary & Co-Founder

A few months ago I received an email from Tian, President of the "Positive Cards Club" at a high school in Palo Alto, CA. According to Tian, the club "creates handmade cards for various groups, including hospitalized kids, lonely seniors, and cancer patients . . ." Well, sign me up!

A few email exchanges later, Tian and his club got busy creating handmade cards for the orphans at our Mwaji Secondary School. (Not only do the Mwaji students read English, but they would understand the significance of teenagers they don't know, teenagers who live half a world away, writing to them.)

The club sent the cards directly to Tanzania. At first, we heard nothing. Then one day a few months later, we received a flurry of photos showing the Mwaji students with their cards. They were thrilled, and had written posters to communicate with the high schoolers in Palo Alto. "Your cards made us smile!" and "Thank you for making me feel proud of myself" some of the posters read.

It was a deeply satisfying experience, and I was glad to have played a small part. Long after all these children grow into adulthood, I pray that they will never forget the hands that joined across the world, and the hope and love that was shared between them. 🐦



Orphans at the Mwaji Secondary School sharing the cards with one another.

A Call to Action

WHERE ARE ALL THE GIRLS?

by Michele Torrey
and Carl Gann

The Isandula Vocational and Technical College sits on a dusty twenty acres, seemingly in the middle of nowhere. Not far away, farmers herd their cattle, occasionally passing through the still-growing complex. The college is our newest project and is still under development. Judging from the photos taken last year by two of OA's board members, almost all of the students are boys.

Where are all the girls?

Currently, we only have a small room for about three girls at the college, located inside the former caretaker's cottage (now also used as storage). If a girl wants to attend our college and the small room is already full, she must walk. But walk from where? For miles around, there is little else. Walking seven miles one way from the nearest town would exhaust any student.

Mawazo Chaula, OA's in-country manager, reports that prospective girls come to the college to see what is offered and leave disappointed as there's no place to board. (The boys already have a dorm.) So clearly, we need a dormitory for girls. Many girls desperately need and want to come. Earning a two-year degree at the college, girls can become electricians—traditional and solar. Or, on a shorter term, they can earn money as licensed drivers by completing a one month training course. They become independent and no longer have to agonize over whether to marry in order to survive. Carl personally visited one of our female graduates, Zaina, at the shop where she was working as an automotive electrical technician. Her pride in her occupation and independence was potent.

Funds are needed to accomplish this project. The project includes a dormitory for 48 girls, bunk beds, mattresses, mosquito nets, tables, chairs, shower and toilet facilities with septic tank, and a room for the dormitory matron. We now have a \$25,000 matching grant gift from generous donors. This will really kickstart construction. Please help us give these orphan girls the chance they need. You can donate directly to the dorm fund using the link <https://app.donorview.com/RZ6Ep>, scanning the QR code, or by filling out the form below. ♥



Photos (top to bottom): 1- Electrical class at the college; 2-the beginnings of the campus; 3-Zaina working as an automotive electrical technician; 4- entrance to the driving instruction program.

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City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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☐ Yes! Please use my donation of \$ _____ to double my impact.

☐ Check or Money Order enclosed (payable to: Orphans Africa)

Visa / MC: _____ Exp: ____/____/____ CVV: _____

Signature _____

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Sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to Orphans Africa at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards. You can search for Orphans Africa by name or by OA's nonprofit number 91803. Then, every time you shop and use your Rewards Card, you are helping Orphans Africa earn a donation!

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